

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The auger mixer according to claim [[3]]16 wherein the first fixed and rotating seal members are made of rubber and the second fixed and rotating seal members are made of steel.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The auger mixer according to claim [[5]]16 wherein the sealing stationary and rotating contact surfaces of the stationary seal and the rotating seal are comprised of steel.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The auger mixer according to claim 6 wherein the sealing contact surfaces of the stationary seal and the rotating seal are circular.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Currently amended): An auger mixer for mixing a concrete mix comprising: an elongated mixer housing having a first end and a second end, the mixer housing having a mixing chamber for mixing the concrete mix therein;

a mixing auger disposed in the mixing chamber and having an auger shaft, the auger shaft having  
a longitudinal shaft axis extending from the first end to the second end of the mixer  
housing;

a power source connected to the mixing auger for rotating the mixing auger about the  
longitudinal shaft axis of the shaft;

the mixer housing having a first end wall adjacent the first end of the housing;

a bearing assembly mounting one end of the auger shaft to the first end wall of the housing for  
rotation relative to the first end wall about the shaft axis;

a seal assembly preventing the concrete mix from exiting the mixing chamber and moving  
toward the bearing assembly;

a steel plate attaching the bearing assembly to the first end wall of the housing;

a compressible plate between the steel plate and the first end wall, the compressible plate being  
separate from the seal assembly; and

a securing member securing the steel plate and the compressible plate to the first end wall  
whereby the compressible plate permits flexing of the steel plate and the first end wall  
relative to one another so as to permit slight movement of the angular disposition of the  
shaft axis relative to the first end wall.

Claim 11 (Original): The auger mixer according to claim 10 wherein the compressible plate  
comprises rubber.

Claim 12 (Original): The auger mixer according to claim 10 wherein the seal assembly  
comprises a stationary seal remaining stationary with the first end wall and a rotating seal

rotating about the shaft axis, the stationary seal and the rotating seal contacting one another to provide a seal preventing the concrete mix from exiting the mixing chamber.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A method for sealing a rotating auger shaft relative to a first end wall of a concrete auger mixer, the auger mixer having a mixing chamber holding the auger shaft and containing a concrete mix, the method comprising:

placing a seal assembly between the first end wall and the rotating shaft, the seal assembly comprising a stationary seal having a circular sealing surface and a rotating seal having a circular sealing surface;

maintaining the stationary seal stationary with respect to the first end wall;

rotating the rotating seal about the rotating axis of the rotating auger shaft;

frictionally contacting the circular sealing surface of the stationary seal with the circular sealing surface of the rotating seal to provide a sealing engagement there between for preventing concrete mix from exiting the mixing chamber through the first end wall;

biasing the circular sealing surface of the stationary seal toward the circular sealing surface of the rotating seal;

rotating the rotating seal by rotating the auger mixer while at the same time maintaining the stationary seal against rotational movement whereby the circular sealing surface of the rotating seal rotates relative to, and bears against, the circular sealing surface of the stationary seal.

Claims 14-15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (New):     An auger mixer for mixing a concrete mix comprising:

an elongated mixer housing having a first end and a second end, the mixer housing having a mixing chamber for mixing the concrete mix therein;

a mixing auger disposed in the mixing chamber and having an auger shaft, the auger shaft having a longitudinal shaft axis extending from the first end to the second end of the mixer housing;

a power source connected to the mixing auger for rotating the mixing auger about the longitudinal shaft axis of the shaft;

the mixer housing having a first end wall adjacent the first end of the housing;

a bearing assembly mounting one end of the auger shaft to the first end wall of the housing for rotation relative to the first end wall about the shaft axis;

a seal assembly comprising a stationary seal remaining stationary relative to the first end wall and a rotating seal rotating in unison with the auger shaft when the auger shaft rotates about the auger shaft axis;

the stationary seal including a stationary contact surface and a resilient stationary member;

the rotating seal including a rotating contact surface and a resilient rotating member;

the resilient stationary member and the resilient rotating member each being deformed and biasing the stationary seal and the rotating seal toward one another so that the stationary contact surface of the stationary member frictionally engages the rotating contact surface of the rotating member;

the stationary contact surface and the rotating contact surface forming a seal there between during rotation of the rotating contact surface relative to the stationary contact surface to prevent

the concrete mix from exiting the mixing chamber and moving toward the bearing assembly.

Claim 17 (New): The auger mixer of claim 16 wherein the stationary and the rotating contact surfaces each comprise an outer edge of a cone shaped surface, the cone shaped surface of the stationary seal facing the cone shaped surface of the rotating seal.

Claim 18 (New): The auger mixer of claim 10 wherein the steel plate is in facing engagement with the compressible plate.

Claim 19 (New): The method of claim 13 wherein the stationary seal includes a cone shaped surface and the circular sealing surface of the stationary seal is at the outer edge of the cone shaped surface, the rotating seal having a cone shaped surface and the circular sealing surface of the rotating seal being at the outer edge of the cone shaped surface; the method comprising facing the cone shaped surface of the stationary seal toward the cone shaped surface of the rotating seal and engaging the circular sealing surface of the stationary seal with the circular sealing surface of the rotating seal.